

MEMO

DATE: June 7, 2007

TO: Regional Council

FROM: Leeor Alpern, Government Affairs Analyst, (213) 236-1883, alpern@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: SCAG 'Sacramento Legislative Day' – May 15, 2007

BACKGROUND

As many of you know, SCAG's traditional annual visit to the California State Legislature occurred on Tuesday, May 15, 2007. The one-day visit consisted of morning and afternoon meetings with legislators and selected agency heads, as well as a SCAG hosted luncheon meeting. Representatives of the South Coast Air Quality Management District accompanied SCAG's delegation. The meetings focused on the air quality emergency being requested for the South Coast Air Basin as well as the infrastructure bond implementation.

SCAG President Gary Ovitt led this year's delegation of elected officials, which included Regional Council Members: Harry Baldwin; Ron Loveridge; Tonia Reyes Uranga; and Dennis Washburn. Regional Council Member Gary Ovitt, Ron Loveridge and Tonia Reyes Uranga serve on the board of the South Coast AQMD, which was also represented by Deputy Executive Director Oscar Abarca, Assistant Deputy Executive Director Anupom Ganguli and Senior Public Affairs Manager William Sanchez. Mark Pisano and SCAG Government Affairs staff also attended this trip.

At President Ovitt's request, this year's Sacramento Legislative Day agenda focused on the air quality crisis facing the South Coast Air Basin. The delegation communicated to the Assembly and Senate the Regional Council's recent call for a State of Emergency declaration by the Governor and President. The delegation explained that the region and state have made significant commitments to address the air quality crisis; for example, by setting ambitious goals with the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan and financial commitments with the Infrastructure Bonds passed by voters in November 2006. The delegation noted that the Declaration of Emergency would address the federal government's regulatory authority it can exercise regarding mobile emission sources and funding that is needed to meet upcoming deadlines for emissions. Likewise, the delegation extended an invitation to legislators to participate in SCAG's Air Quality Crisis Summit on July 6th in Long Beach.

SCAG's delegation met with key members and staff of Assembly and Senate Committees as well as State Agency representatives, including: Senate Minority Leader Dick Ackerman (R - Tustin); Assembly Assistant Majority Leader Kevin de Leon (D - Los Angeles); Senate Transportation and Housing Committee Chair Alan Lowenthal (D - Long Beach); Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Tom Torlakson (D - Antioch); Senate Environmental Quality Committee Vice Chair George Runner (R - Antelope Valley); Senate President pro Tem Don Perata's Consultant, Kip Lipper; Senate Transportation & Housing Committee Member Robert Dutton (R - Rancho Cucamonga); Senate Transportation & Housing Committee Member Tom Harman (R - Orange); Assembly Transportation Committee Member Wilmer Amina Carter (D - Rialto); Senate Transportation and Housing Committee Member Gilbert Cedillo (D - Los Angeles);

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Assembly Transportation Committee Vice Chair Michael Duvall (R - Yorba Linda); Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas (D - Los Angeles); Paul Van Dyke, Chief of Staff to Assembly Member Nell Soto (D - Pomona); Department of Housing and Community Development Director Lynn Jacobs; Director, Planning and Modal Programs California Department of Transportation, Joan Sollenberger; and Chief, Air Quality and Transportation Planning, Air Resources Board, Kurt Karperos.

Additionally, SCAG staff left materials with Susan Kennedy, Chief of Staff to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Erica Martinez, consultant to Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez (D - Los Angeles), and staffs of members of the Southern California Delegation.

Attached is a short slide presentation on our visits and a copy of the two-page handout we distributed during the trip.

Reviewed by:


Division Manager

Reviewed by:


Department Director

Reviewed by:


Chief Financial Officer